

**Appln No. 10/506,394**  
**Amdt date September 25, 2007**  
**Reply to Office action of June 18, 2007**

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The above amendments and these remarks are in response to the Office action mailed on June 18, 2007. Claims 1-10 have been amended. Claims 11-18 have added. Claims 1-18 are now pending in this application. Reconsideration on the basis of the above amendments and remarks below is kindly requested.

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview on August 27, 2007 where the prior art and the claims were discussed, and specifically that the prior art did not disclose that the perforated plate defined an outer housing.

The Examiner objected to claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Engel et al. According to the Examiner, Engel et al. discloses an outer liner 15b which is a perforated plate. Claim 6 as now amended requires that the perforated plate defines an outer housing over the filter that connects to the upper and lower housings. Item 15b disclosed in Engel et al. appears to be a perforated plate. However, item 15b does not define the outer housing that connects to upper and lower housings, as required by claim 6. As such, Applicant submits that claim 6 is not anticipated by Engel et al. Claims 7 and 8 are dependent from claim 6. As such, Applicant submits that claims 7 and 8 are also not anticipated by Engel et al. as being dependent from a claim not anticipated by Engel et al. and for the additional limitations they contain therein.

The Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Engel et al. in view of Oke. The Examiner also rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Engel et al. in view of Heilmann et al. Neither Oke nor Heilmann et al. appear to disclose a perforated plate that defines an outer housing of the filter that connects to the upper and lower housings, as required by claim 6. As such, neither of these two references make up for the deficiencies of Engel et al. in disclosing the subject matter of claim 6. Consequently, Applicant submits that claims 9 and 10, which are dependent from claim 6, are also allowable over these references for the same reasons as claim 6 and for the additional limitations that these claims contain therein.

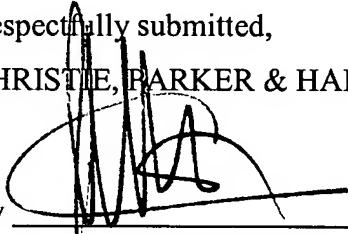
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The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 as being unpatentable over Coulonvaux in view of Oke. According to the Examiner, Coulonvaux discloses an outer liner perforated plate. However, the outer liner perforated plate which appears to be item 38 in Coulonvaux does not define an outer housing that connects with the upper and lower housings, as required by claim 1. Similarly, Oke also does not disclose this feature. Consequently, the combination of Coulonvaux and Oke cannot render claim 1 obvious. Claims 2-5 are dependent from claim 1. As such, Applicant submits that claims 2-5 are also not rendered obvious by Coulonvaux in view of Oke as being dependent from a claim not rendered obvious by these two references and for the additional limitations that these claims contain therein.

Claims 11-18 have been added and require a perforated plate which defines an outer housing of the air filter. The claims also require a lower housing portion and an upper housing portion coupled to the perforated plate. As discussed, such features do not appear to be disclosed by the cited references. As such, Applicant submits that claims 11-18 should also be allowable over the cited references.

The rejections to all claims pending in this application are believed to have been overcome and this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns about the allowability of this application, the Examiner is kindly requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss them.

Respectfully submitted,  
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